

I am worried that the proposed pilot projects in the Erosion Hazard Overlay are a risky and scary investment that will benefit very few people and will create a permanent liability for city taxpayers. Insurance cannot be bought to cover the damage! Who will protect the taxpayers after the developers have made their money and gone? If they begin a project and it fails, what can be done to stop it? There is no good reason to change a reasonable regulation put in place to protect the better good and replace it with a permanent liability.

All over our neighborhood the city is allowing development on the steep slopes above Lake Sammamish on land not in the overlay. One applicant has filed for six Reasonable Use Exceptions on subdivided lots. Another has cut all the trees on two steep lots in violation of our code and without permits. The penalties for breaking the law are so lax, there is no disincentive. They just claim ignorance. The current penalties used to enforce compliance (especially to protect the forested and sensitive slope areas) are so inconsequential as to be totally ineffective. Until the incentive to be in compliance outweighs the advantages of ignoring them, these illegal activities will go on unabated. All these legal and illegal activities lead to cumulative impacts that are unrecognized until it is too late. The cumulative impacts are severe enough already in our city without allowing development in places we KNOW have a higher risk of being harmful.

The truth is that science tells us these pilot projects cannot be built without adverse impacts. The adverse affects are irreversible whether they are seen right away or show up years later. The city council should support the science and protect the public from permanent risks that bring temporary financial benefits to only a few people. Every year we learn that managing stormwater requires more and more restrictions on development than were done in the past. We know that retaining more land, saving more trees and not disturbing the soils are the way forward. So why are we taking a step back-

ward and allowing development where it's dangerous to do so?

Monitoring of current environmental conditions surrounding these projects has not been done, so assessing and proving the cause of any damage could not be done. The liabilities and lawsuits would have to be paid by the taxpayers.

On behalf of the large majority of residence of Sammamish who choose to live here amidst Mother Nature's paradise, I must ask that the counsel members think long and hard about jeopardizing our ecosystem and consider the vulnerability the city creates for itself and community when they remove or relax restrictions put in place to protect the integrity of our precious environment and the riches of our natural resources. The pressures and responsibilities you take on as pioneers of our community are many and require making some very difficult decisions. As a gentle and respectful reminder I would like to point out you were elected to act in the best interest of the general community and protect us from slanted regulations that accommodate the personal agenda and gain of a few property owners.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to speak freely. I appreciate the time and dedication you commit to our Sammamish community and trust you to vote in good conscience and with the best intentions in mind.

submitted by Nicky Beedle
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" party of interest "